

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
**AUGUST 28, 2006**

The City of Leesburg Commission held a Budget Workshop Monday, August 28, 2006, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall immediately following the regular Commission Meeting. Mayor Lovell called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Sanna Henderson  
Commissioner John Christian  
Commissioner David Knowles  
Commissioner Lewis Puckett  
Mayor Bob Lovell

Others present were City Manager (CM) Ron Stock, City Clerk (CC) Betty Richardson, City Attorney (CA) Fred Morrison, Deputy City Clerk (DCC) Diane Gibson Smith, the news media, and others.

The invocation and pledge of allegiance were given as part of the regular City Commission Meeting.

CM Stock stated several civic organizations called and asked to be on the agenda to request funding. The order was determined by call in order.

**The Haven**

Kelly Smallridge, executive director, stated the grant letter was sent to the old address due to a clerical error. Ms. Smallridge stated The Haven serviced 13,000 people last year - 6,000 of whom are children and 20% of whom are from Leesburg.

Commissioner Henderson questioned why the increase in funding was requested. Ms. Smallridge said the increase is requested due to the increased costs of items such as gas and electricity.

Commissioner Christian noted the City does advertise in the newspaper as well so other groups can also apply. He noted The Haven does great work in the City.

Commissioner Christian moved to approve \$10,000, the same as last year. Commissioner Knowles seconded the motion.

Commissioner Henderson moved to amend the motion to \$15,000. Commissioner Puckett seconded the motion. The motion to amend the amount to \$15,000 was approved unanimously.

The Commission unanimously approved, by voice vote, granting of \$15,000 The Haven.

## **MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD AUGUST 28, 2006**

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### **Leesburg Food Bank**

No one from the Food Bank was present. No funding will be given.

### **Leesburg Partnership**

John Cherry, vice president of the Leesburg Partnership, stated many community leaders are members of the Leesburg Partnership. The Leesburg Partnership began with the Main Street program in 1994. Downtown has experienced a rebirth due to the work of the Leesburg Partnership and the City Commission. The Leesburg Partnership sponsors many events in the downtown area which are highly successful. A main street program manager position has been added this year to handle the downtown programs. The Leesburg Partnership requested \$80,000.

Commissioner Puckett suggested adding the Leesburg Partnership to the budget to receive a set amount every year instead of requesting funds on a yearly basis. Perhaps a disaster fund could be set up also.

Commissioner Christian stated the City should not have a fund set aside to cover costs in case of "rain" unless the fund is available for all groups. The group should purchase insurance for this purpose. Commissioner Christian stated all groups need to be treated alike.

Commissioner Knowles stated he personally supports the Leesburg Partnership and doesn't feel a set amount is in their best interest. Perhaps a line of credit could be set up instead.

Commissioner Henderson stated she wants to remove the Leesburg Partnership from Grants and Aids as this group does things the City should be doing. Other groups which should be removed are the Chamber of Commerce and the Center for the Arts.

Commissioner Christian stated he agrees with this idea. The City Manager knows what in-kind service staff already gives to this group.

Commissioners Puckett and Knowles both stated the Leesburg Partnership is not the same type of group as the Chamber of Commerce and Center for the Arts. The groups do not bring in the same number of people.

Mayor Lovell stated all these agencies contribute to the City of Leesburg by bringing in money and services. This disagreement is over the procedures, not the principles. These agencies are the arms of the City, however; \$80,000 seems to be an extreme amount to give the Leesburg Partnership.

Commissioner Henderson moved to contribute \$65,000 to the Leesburg Partnership this year and then work on adding the Leesburg Partnership funds into the budget on a yearly basis. Commissioner Christian seconded the motion.

## **MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD AUGUST 28, 2006**

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Don Lukich, a concerned citizen, questioned if anyone really knew what the city costs are for the services during the events. CM Stock stated a spreadsheet showing the figures is available. He noted over \$685,000 in services has been given during the past 10 years. Mr. Lukich questioned if the City needed to increase the dollars given if the Leesburg Partnership is growing and able to put money in the bank.

CM Stock stated the City provided \$68,292 last year. The City's out-of-pocket expenses for the Bikefest were \$41,065 - mainly for Police and Fire – after deduction of the \$13,631 the Leesburg Partnership paid the City. Expenses for Mardi Gras were \$8,962.03. Staff is frustrated as the Leesburg Partnership is always asking for additional funds even though its profits are rising.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Christian	Yea
Commissioner Knowles	Yea
Commissioner Puckett	Yea
Commissioner Henderson	Yea
Mayor Lovell	Yea

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission approved giving the Leesburg Partnership \$65,000.

### **Dabney Minatee**

Freda Russell Miller, president of Dabney Heritage Minatee Group, stated the group submitted a request but it was delivered late due to change in personnel. Ms. Miller described the work of the Dabney Minatee group as providing parenting resources, drug use awareness, and classes on GED. The group is requesting \$19,000.

Commissioner Henderson questioned how many people were served. Ms. Miller stated last year the group served 1,000 people. The group does support other areas.

Commissioner Puckett moved to approve \$15,000 and Commissioner Christian seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Knowles	Yea
Commissioner Puckett	Yea
Commissioner Henderson	Yea
Commissioner Christian	Yea
Mayor Lovell	Yea

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission approved giving the Dabney Minatee Group \$15,000.

## **MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD AUGUST 28, 2006**

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### **Chamber of Commerce**

Ron Wallace, president, stated the Chamber of Commerce represents over 600 local businesses. He thanked the Commission for the allocation and support.

### **Lake County Community Action Agency**

James Lowe, executive director, introduced Gloria Boone, area coordinator. Mr. Lowe stated the Lake County Community Action Agency requested \$7,500 but received a letter stating no funding was being offered. Lake County Community Action Agency provides the following services - head start, low income energy assistance, and a self-assistance program. The funding from the City of Leesburg is used as leverage for State dollars to expand these services.

Ms. Boone stated funds last year were used for emergency utility payments, utility deposits, emergency housing, and employment aid.

CM Stock stated the primary reason no funding was recommended is because the City did not receive the financial reports and the Not-For-Profit Status documentation.

Mr. Lowe stated he would make sure all necessary documentation was provided to the City, if funding was approved this year.

Commissioner Christian stated he is familiar with the program. He moved to approve \$7,500 for this agency and Commissioner Puckett seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Puckett	Yea
Commissioner Henderson	Yea
Commissioner Christian	Yea
Commissioner Knowles	Yea
Mayor Lovell	Yea

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission approved giving the Lake County Community Action Agency \$7,500.

### **Other Requests**

1. CM Stock stated he was contacted by Commissioners regarding two other organizations not on the list. CM Stock recommends giving \$5,000 to the Leesburg High School Band and \$1,000 to the Miss Leesburg Scholarship Program.

Commissioner Knowles moved to approve the recommendation as stated by CM Stock and Commissioner Henderson seconded the motion.

## **MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD AUGUST 28, 2006**

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Commissioner Christian questioned if the Band had any sponsorship available. CM Stock stated the Leesburg High School Band does have some sponsorship.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Henderson	Yea
Commissioner Christian	Yea
Commissioner Knowles	Yea
Commissioner Puckett	Yea
Mayor Lovell	Yea

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission approved giving the Leesburg High School Band \$5,000 and the Miss Leesburg Scholarship Program \$1,000.

2. CM Stock stated staff needs direction on whether or not to reduce the mill levy to \$4.45 per \$1,000.

Commissioner Knowles stated the reduction does not make a big difference but the reduction does have a pleasant appearance. Commissioner Knowles stated he will approve lowering the mill levy to \$4.45 per \$1,000.

Commissioner Puckett moved to keep the mill levy at \$4.50 per \$1,000. Commissioner Knowles seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Christian	Yea
Commissioner Knowles	Yea
Commissioner Puckett	Yea
Commissioner Henderson	Yea
Mayor Lovell	Nay

Four yeas, one nay, the Commission approved keeping the mill levy at \$4.50 per \$1,000.

Commissioner Christian moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Puckett seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

*Diane L. Gibson Smith*

Recorder

MINUTES 060828 BUDGET